



April 2001

DX will always be!

### Next General Meeting

*The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. There will be no meeting in April as we head for the DX Convention in Visalia.*

*Our next meeting will be held on May 10, 2001 at 7:30 PM, at*

*Syd Kronenfeld Park  
in Culver City.*

*A map and directions will be provided before the May Meeting*



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## Soap Box— Words from our President



**Chuck, KR6C**

new members. We were hoping to have a couple of operators from the recent Conaway Reef DXpedition but somewhere the propagation faded and the eyeball QSO's weren't logged. As you all should be aware by now, we are no longer meeting at Jun's radio. Skip has located a new meeting place close by and on the same night, which should allow for a smooth transition. I would like to thank Skip, and everyone who pulled together in the search for a new meeting place. Now since that is-

Greetings everyone,

What a great pizza bash. We had over 40 members, a few guest and even some

sue has been resolved we suddenly realize that is April, and with that comes Visalia! I hope to see a great turnout by the SCDXC members this year for what will be a great time with friends and DX stories. Because of the convention there will not be a meeting in April. We will resume normal operations in May with another fine program. Remember Anchor's Away night is coming up so start cleaning out those shacks. Where else can you buy high voltage variable cap's that require a pick-up truck to haul home for \$40!

This year is also proving to be an exciting time for the board members. The changing of the Bulletin distribution, the changing of the meeting location, some new and exciting activities Skip has planned for us, and several new

proposals brought forth by the board or club members has kept us all pretty busy. We've hit a couple of small pileup's along the way but nothing that couldn't be broken. If there's any suggestions of questions you have please bring them to the attention of the board. You can reach any of us privately by phone or e-mail or by mass distribution at [board@scdxc.org](mailto:board@scdxc.org). If you don't see your name in this distribution of the roster, it means you haven't paid your dues and have been dropped! If this is in error and you want remain an active member, just silently slip Harv a \$20 bill (He has a pile of ones for change). Well, that's about all for this month and see you at Visalia!

Very 73, Chuck KR6C

## Club Roster

Yes, this is April and thus a short edition of the BULLETin. However it is the month we normally distribute the Club Roster. For the past few years it was mailed to members as part of, or instead of, the BULLETin. Because we are now distributing through the club web page, and it is felt that the complete roster

should not be open to all comers, the board decided the roster will be distributed at the club meetings.

This was the distribution method we used for many years.

If you cannot get to a club meeting you may receive the roster (an EXCEL file) by e-mail. Simply send a

message to: [membership@scdxc.org](mailto:membership@scdxc.org) requesting the roster.

If you do not have e-mail and you want the roster, we will mail it by USPS.

The roster will only be sent to current members.

## The Veeep Speaks

What a nice turnout we had at the Pizza Bash, considering it was a last minute plan.

It was good to be able to walk around and talk to people in spite of the outside noises. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.



I am looking forward to the DX convention at Visalia this month. It is always good to see the old faces and meet some new ones. You'll find me on the golf course on Friday morning. See Don, N6IC if you want to play.

We have arranged for some great programs for the upcoming meetings. I have asked world famous DX'er Terry Dubson, W6JL (ex W6MKB) to speak at the May meeting. Jerry always does an excellent job speaking and is a wonderful photographer. I always enjoy his slide presentations.

In June we will have our "Anchors Aweigh" auction. Be sure to check your shacks and garages and bring some of that good stuff you haven't used in the last few years. Remember, One mans junk is another mans treasure.

We will be having a club picnic on the last Saturday in June, the 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Sepulveda basin Recreational area. Starts at noon till 5:00. Club will

provide Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Drinks and condiments. Club members should bring a pot luck dessert. More information to follow.

Remember the May Club meeting will be at Syd Kronenfeld Park in Culver City. I should have a map with directions and a list of close-by places to eat before the meeting.

See you all in Visalia.

Skip, KJ6Y

## De KJ6Y

### Club records

Please Let us know when you move, change calls, switch e-mail addresses., etc.

On Your Way to the  
International DX Convention in  
Visalia.....

### Take a Tour of the Voice of America TRANSMITTER SITE

Just 30 minutes south of Visalia, west of Delano.

See Mega-Watt HF Transmitters!

See Mile-High HF Antennas!

See DX QSL Cards from Other Galaxies! Well.....

On FRIDAY ONLY, APRIL 20, from  
8:00AM – 4:00PM TOURS START ON  
THE HOUR

### NORTHBOUND on HWY 99

Take the Pond Road exit before Delano, go west (LEFT) ~ 1.5 miles to Melcher Road, turn north (RIGHT) & aim for the antennas!

PACEMAKER WEARERS ARE CAUTIONED NOT TO ATTEND!

Thanks to Joe, K6ZMW for making these arrangements

## Announcement

For years the "standard" of propagation prediction software was MiniProp by Shel, W6EL.



A week ago Shel announced a new version of his program. This software has a new name "W6ELProp" and a new look. It now runs under Windows.

Shel invites you to go to the following URL and download the program.

<http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>



You will get a ZIP file that includes the program along with an installation program.

The standard is back!

Thank you Shel!

(Note: "W6ELProp" is copywrited by W6EL and is being made available to Hams for non-commercial uses without charge.)

## A Special Story (and a very special guy!)

We have a number of members who have contributed significantly to our DX hobby. There is little doubt that the man shown in the picture on the right, OH2BH, wins the prize for truly outstanding contributions over many years.

I asked Martii to share a few of his experiences with us. My thoughts were a few cards and fifty words which would be featured in the QSL column of the BULLETIN.

I was delighted when I received the wonderful article appearing on the next page.

Enjoy!!

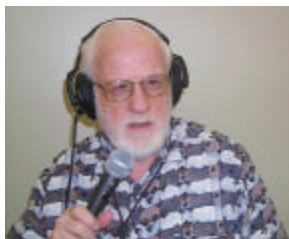


## Spotting Derby

By K6EXO

This edition of the BULLETIN is sort of skimpy as we prepare for Visalia.

There will be no derby results published this month. We will combine the March and April results in next month's report. And for those of you who were unable to make spots when the LAX node was ill — we will modify the rules so that no spot made during that period will count.



A word about the Packet Cluster network and the Derby.

I think it bears repeating once in while that our Packet Cluster System is not sponsored by the SCDXC. It is operated for the benefit of DXers by a small group of SYSOPs and generally supported by users. Should you want the speech about node support— just ask the guys who do provide support for the system. I think all the SYSOPs have been reaching into their pockets to keep the network up and running. On behalf of the other SYSOPs, I extend thanks to the supporters. Without you there would be no system. Now — if

only it did not take so much time to maintain the stuff!

The Derby is sort of my own hobby. It was established to encourage on the air activity by Club Members. It is for FUN and I hope no one gets too serious about it. From time to time I am asked why a certain call was left out of the monthly listings. It could be caused by any number of reasons. The most common are:

You changed your call and the club records are not up to date.

An element of the Packet Cluster network was down at the time you posted the seventeen spots for the VE3 you worked on 24 MHz RTTY. The link to the SF Valley node must be up when you make the spot as that is where the log is maintained.

You spotted someone at a time very close to another spot for the same station. The filter at the node did not record your spot.

So — till May — smell the flowers and hope for good propagation.

See you at the VOA and the Convention.

## Convention News IMPORTANT!

We received this e-mail from W6YD, the convention chairman

"I received a call from the Holiday Inn asking that I inform all conventioners that the hotel will add a \$2.75 per room per night surcharge to their published room rates. This is to offset the increased energy rates.

Please, get the word out to as many people as possible down there, in order to hold the 'surprise factor' to a minimum.

TNX & 73,

George, W6YD

## We Remember these QSLs !

By Martii Laine, OH2 BH

When Harvey, K6EXO, approached me to share some of my most memorable adventures and QSL cards with SCDXC, I was just delighted. It is not very often that someone likes to look back and remember those adventures of other days. I guess normally people look forward, asking what the next one is going to be. Or simply, "Where Do You Go Next?"

But when actually digging into my archives, I realized instantly that all these adventures were popping up with excitement and inspiration, and soon found myself immersed in those great memories. In short, it was indeed those adventures and memories that had guided my way - they had made me and the OH2BH institution into what it is today. Admired and envied - credited and discredited - depending which countries were logged and which were perhaps missed along the way.

But to meet Harv's request, I will walk you through some memories. And if you are not bored, I may continue next time around.

### ALBANIA OH2BH/ ZA (1970) and ZA1A (1992)

Yes indeed, it took exactly 22 years to make it happen, but those years were extremely rich and certainly gave me another perspective to life. Life was very different in 1970 - Albania was the only Chinese outpost in Europe—not many people would remember this. Albania had tried Communism with the Soviet Union but after conflicting times, ended up in the hands of Mao's China. I had bought a small Mao statue as a souvenir from Albania.

The country was exactly what North Korea is today - totally secluded under Enver Hoxa's dictatorship, making absolutely sure that no one inside Albania knew what was happening outside. But 1970 was the year of first tourist groups entering ZA, and that always marks a beginning of change. Tourists meet locals and the exchange of information gets underway.

Those were very interesting years, and it seems I always ended up with Mr. Omeri of the military communications branch, and year after year he kept nodding his head vertically. Indeed, Albanians said "no" by nodding their heads, just opposite to what we thought. Thus it was many times I was under the impression that I had a ZA license in hand.

The highlight really came with the day when the son of the then dictator (Enver Hoxa) was, for strategic reasons, put in charge of telecommunications. Mr. Omeri had now got a taste of the outside world since the dictator had had his son pursuing studies in France and had sampled the sweet life outside of Albania.

Here I was sitting in an office at the Ministry of Telecommunications, with the minister himself smiling positively while Mr. Omeri still kept nodding his head. My grand idea was to take them both out of Albania to see amateur radio and

other telecom issues in action. Mr. Omeri would be going outside of Albania for the first time. DX magic was in the making.

As so, Japanese sources stepped forth and sponsored the entire mission to Tokyo, Japan. There was no expectation on our departure for that long journey, but those who e-



CQ HAM RADIO, featuring the Albanian delegation in Tokyo and in the group is Mr. Dajlan Omeri, ZA1Z. Others; JA1AN president of JARL making the ZA1A announcement while Dick Baldwin, W1RU of IARU and OH2BH were watching in joy. A new IARU country was born!



member, will recall that the group reached Tokyo, with Albania making an official announcement of entering the world of amateur radio in the shape of ZA1A. And believe it or not, Mr. Omeri was now nodding his head...horizontally!

But how did it happen? - this I have never told in public!

Mr. Omeri was a man from the military era; he was known to be a good telegraphist - that was the only thing that he would tell me. He knew Morse code...best of them all! He spent all his evenings away in his hotel room, totally isolated from the rest of us. I was worrying about him. Here was my chance. I went to the Aki-Habara shopping street the next day and bought Mr. Omeri an electronic keyer. In the evening, I knocked on his door and politely gave him the gift - an electronic keyer.

The next day, at breakfast, a "loud voice" was overheard in the dining room. "Laine" - he always used the family name - was called in for a competition on that new electronic keyer. Mr. Omeri had practised all night and he was highly proficient the following morning. The only thing he did not realize was

Then the announcement was made, and a long march to the establishment of permanent amateur radio in Albania was underway. But there were also many long night sessions with Mr. Omeri trying to beat me with his most valuable equipment, a Japanese electronic keyer!

Then Mr. Omeri became my student and helped me draft Albanian amateur radio regulations and form an IARU Society in his country. He passed the final exam and got a ZA1Z callsign and furthermore, allowed me to sign his license. The first permanent Albanian citizen on the air - so, if the nodding was out of sync, so was the licensing procedure!

He was to be the licensing authority but actually it turned out to be my ink on his license.

When I now hear ZA1Z as the most active Albanian station on the bands, sending fast electronic Morse code, I do remember this specific story and I keep nodding happily...but vertically.

Albania was removed from the top of the wanted lists.....



that I had practised for the last 30-plus years and thus he was an easy target for me. But that marked a turning point - I had gained his respect and I was a worthwhile person for him. I had challenged him on an issue (Morse code) that he thought he was unbeatable in by us hobbyists.



OH2BH/ZA 1970 QSL - Aren't we young and nice looking. Now only nice looking.

**THE FIRST LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO OPERATION FROM ALBANIA**

This remarkable, historic state is located by the Adriatic Sea, Yugoslavia and Greece. Its population of 5 million people is now opening its doors and homes after many decades of very strict order. Albania has an interesting history, a rich cultural resources and natural beauty and has an exceptionally warm people that should be welcomed into our international community of nations.

The ZA1A team was given the honor of establishing amateur radio in Albania and training local Albanian students to carry that torch. Albania is no longer a new country in QSL - Albania is now within reach and open for your visit. Indeed, ZA1A can easily be the destination of your next journey. Contact ZA1A team members or any of the new licensees for details.

The ZA1A project has been a splendid example of international friendship among many individuals and national societies under the patronage of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). The assistance of the NC307, the Japanese Q1 Publishing Company, the Sava Corp. and the National Corp. also are recognized by many of the Discovering throughout the world of amateur radio.

Welcome, Albania, to the family!

Confirming QSO with: OH2BE

17-Sep-91 1323 UTC 20 2XSSB 59

06-Oct-91 0728 UTC 10 2XSSB 59

Thanks QSL

**THE INTERNATIONAL ZA1A TEAM:**  
 DF5UG, I3WQP, I2SOM, I5PLN, DF0PFR, JA1RK, JA1KOG,  
 N7RG, K7JA, W7SW, OH2BH, OH1RY, OH1VR and OH2BAG.

**THE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTING TEAM:**  
 Richard Baskins, W1RG, President of IARU; Shozo Hara,  
 JAPAN, President of JARI; and David Sumner, K1ZZ,  
 Executive Vice President of ARRL.

**THE ALBANIAN HOSTING TEAM:**  
 Agim, Artur, Dajlan, Fatma, Fendi, Goni, Ibrahim, Makuin,  
 Toli - with Arben, Dali, Gentra, Jovan, Lashu, Mirela, Niko,  
 Sadik, Tiro, Ylber and many others.

QSO verified by NCDXF \_\_\_\_\_

# Proclamation

Hear Ye all Ye beer guzzling and Pizza eating SCDXers.

Be it known that on this, the First day of April in this the Second Year of the Twenty First Century, WE the San Fernando Valley click of the exalted SCDXC met in secret session and VOTED to PETITION the said SCDXC to sponsor a RESOLUTION to the DXCC desk at the American Radio Relay League to change the COUNTRY RULES to wit.

## "Wildcards"

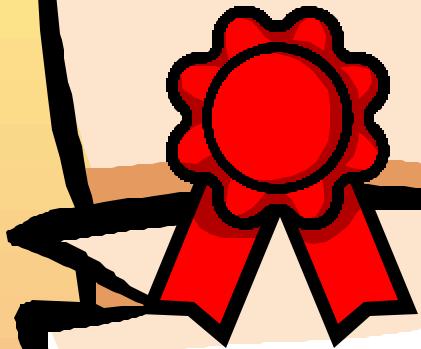
"Wildcards" shall be allowed!

A member of the DXCC who has been a member of the DXCC for a minimum of 25 years, and a boni fide Member of of the Southern Californis DX Club, shall be allowed credit for "countries" if he (or she) can show positive proof of having worked ALL SURROUNDING "countries" and at least two IOTA's within 629 kilometers of the requested wildcard.

An example of the WILDCARD confirmation is: ——

W6ABC has confirmed JA, HL, UA0, BY and a few Islands in the Aleutians. Upon application, through a Real ARRL Card Checker, W6ABC would be given credit for P5. (Ain't that real nice!)

K6EEE  
AA6NA  
HA7TTt  
W6UG  
K60EN



## Who We Are —

The BULLETin is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is mailed to all club members.

Please notify the BULLETin publisher if you do not receive your BULLETin, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions for the BULLETin to the editor.

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The BULLETin Publishing team consist of: W6AUG and AD6KQ

Duane, AA6EE is offering SCDXC members discount prices on Callbook & ARRL items:

Callbook 2001 CD-ROM: \$38.95 including s/h

Visalia special: bring copy of this adv for \$5 cash discount on Callbook CDs)

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CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ WORK TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME/CALL (if desired to be listed in roster) \_\_\_\_\_

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